



New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

MEMORANDUM

TO: Bob Collins, Water Research
 FROM: Bert Mead, Region 6
 SUBJECT: PCB Track-Down Program, Utica Area & Mohawk River
 DATE: November 7, 1979

Attached is a proposal to establish the location of PCB concentrations in the Utica/Rome area. The proposal is designed to determine the conditions in the total Utica/Rome Metropolitan area and to find PCB hot spots. We feel the total study is desirable rather than a more limited study in just the Utica area, because of the high interest in toxics and the fact that the Mohawk Valley has traditionally been a concentrated manufacturing area.

Darrell Sweredoski of the Regional Solid Waste staff developed the sampling proposal and should be contacted if you have any questions regarding it.

Bert Mead
 (KS)

Berton E. Mead, P.E.
 Regional Engineer
 Region 6

BEM:ks
 Attachment

Name
 Goodland
 Council
 Office
 State

Goodland
 11/10/79

RECEIVED

NOV 09 1979

Toxic Substances Control Unit
 Division of Water

362510



PCB TRACK-DOWN PROGRAM, UTICA AREA AND MOHAWK RIVER

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this program is to determine the extent and levels of PCB (oil) contamination in the Mohawk River and Barge Canal complex between Rome and Frankfort, and determine the extent and levels of PCB (oil) contamination in the ground at suspect locations such as Universal Waste Company salvage yard in North Utica, Ludlow Disposal Area, and B & B Landfill.

The program will be divided into three separate steps:

1. Grab samples of sediment taken at nine points along the Mohawk River to establish a PCB profile of the river, canal and tributaries. This PCB profile will indicate PCB "hot spots". A hot spot would be over 50 ppm PCB in the sediment. If no hot spots are found, river sampling will terminate at this point.
2. If hot spots are located over 50 ppm, a more detailed sampling program of the Mohawk River or canal bottom would be addressed to determine remedial action at that time.
3. The EPA is currently investigating accusations that the yard at Universal Waste Company is heavily contaminated with PCB transformer oil. It is not known at this time how extensive the EPA will sample at the yard, if any. If the EPA does not undertake an extensive sampling program, sampling in five areas of the 20 acre yard will be done to determine if remedial action is necessary to protect the environment.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The PCB problem at Universal Waste first came to light in 1977 when Department personnel noticed oil dripping from capacitors stored on the site. Soil and water samples indicated contamination as high as 50,000 ppm PCB on the ground, and 68 ppm PCB in sediment from an open ditch leaving the site and entering the Mohawk River about 500 feet away.

*How about water column
fish, birds
Surface or depths*

*Det rem action
or limits of cont*

*should establish
a grid system
#s of samples*

*What are map?? only PCB's
who will do analyses*

After a newspaper article about PCB contamination at Universal Waste in June 1979, an employee at Universal came forth and told of Universal's attempt to cover up incriminating evidence pointing to extensive dumping of transformer oil at the yard. We also learned of a site 4 miles from Utica where 103 transformers were dumped by Universal prior to a second inspection by this Department in April 1979.

Just results my data?

EPA has found no PCB contamination in the oil.

During a joint EPA/DEC interview with the Universal employee on September 5, 1979, we learned of the five areas at the Universal yard where transformer and capacitor oils have been dumped for as long as 30 years. Universal denies every having dumped oil on their property or of handling the capacitors found on their property.

Some information about PCB contamination in fish from the Mohawk is available. Tests show 4 to 9 ppm PCB from fish caught below Rome.

Air samples from the Universal yard also were taken in August 1979 by DEC. No results have been obtained to date.

During an inspection at Special Metals, New Hartford, we learned that they were heavy users of PCB oil until 1972. They disposed of approximately 400 gallons of PCB oil per year, and Universal was their waste hauler. It is believed that Universal disposed of the oil at the B & B Landfill. Griffiss Air Force Base maintains a bomber squadron and maintenance facility. Hydraulic oils used on these aircrafts may have seeped into Six Mile Creek via their landfill adjacent to it.

The Sauquoit and Oriskany Creeks also drain a heavily industrial area where PCB's may be entering the watershed.

The dredgings from the Barge Canal are disposed of at Nine Mile Creek. These dredgings are believed to contain PCB's.

SAMPLING NEEDS

what are add'l steps

How deep cores - down to sample

The first step of this program will be addressed at this time, that is grab samples from the Mohawk River and cores from certain locations.

Sediment samples, using a dredge, will be taken at nine locations.

SAMPLING LOCATIONS

Water and Sediment

Include in establishing sampling points

1. Mohawk River at Delta Dam
2. Mohawk River at Six Mile Creek entrance
3. Mohawk River and Barge Canal, Rome
4. Nine Mile Creek
5. Nine Mile Creek wet disposal area
6. Mouth of Oriskany Creek
7. Mouth of Sauquoit Creek
8. Utica Harbor
9. Mohawk River between Utica Harbor and Dam
10. At Mohawk River where ditch from Universal empties into
11. Mohawk River between ditch from Universal and Utica bypass sewers
12. Ditch leading from Universal site
13. Ditch leading from Universal site
14. Area of B & B landfill, Mohawk River
15. Frankfort, upstream of dam

2? —
2. —

Cores for historical information will be taken from the Mohawk River at:

1. Utica Harbor
2. River below Universal Waste
3. Barge Canal between Rome and Utica
4. Mouth of Sauquoit
5. Mouth of Oriskany
6. River below Oneida County Sewage Treatment Plant

Equipment needed will be:

1. Dredge and related equipment (Main Office)
2. Sample Containers (Lab)
3. Boat and Motor (Region)
4. Coring Equipment

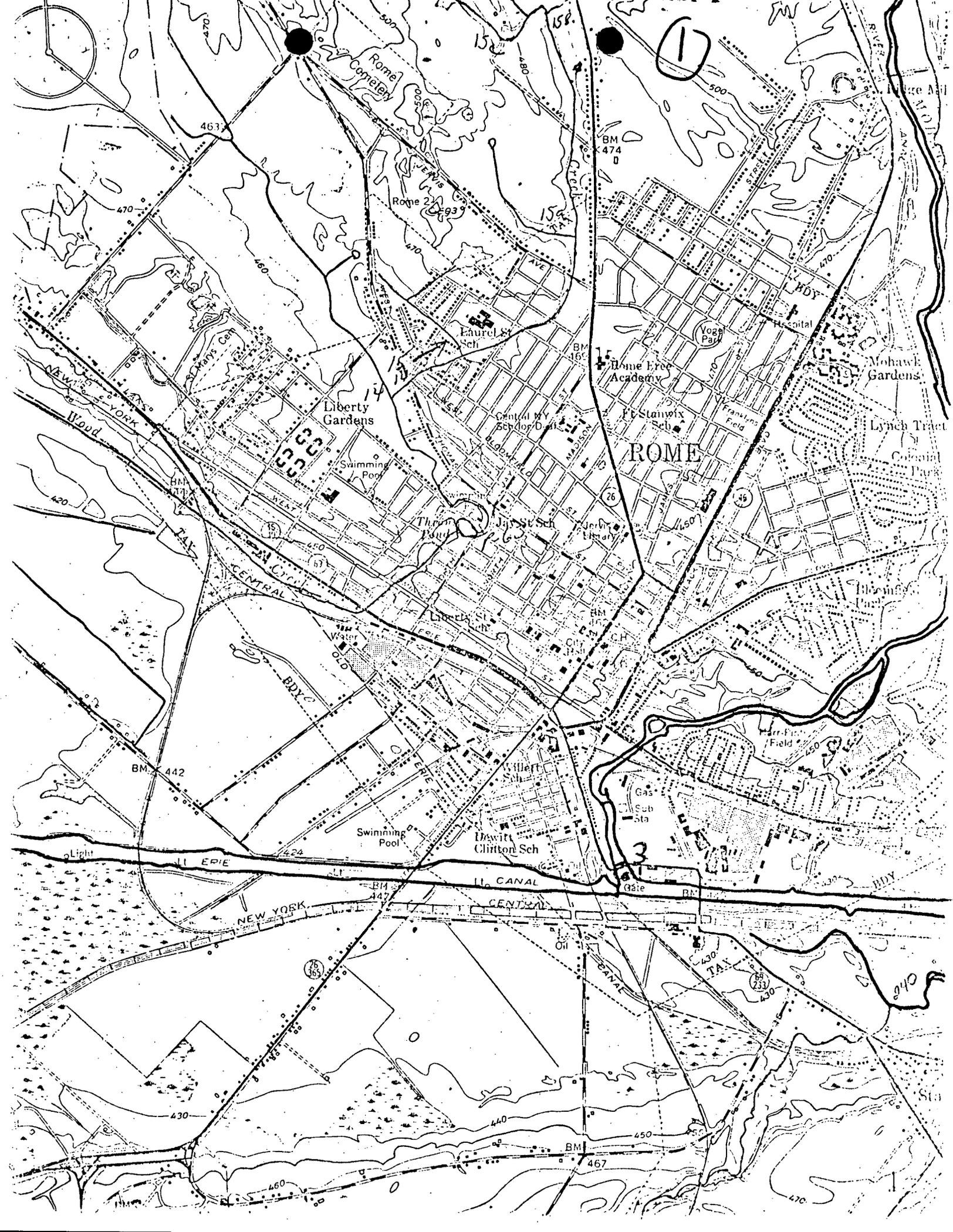
Personnel Needed:

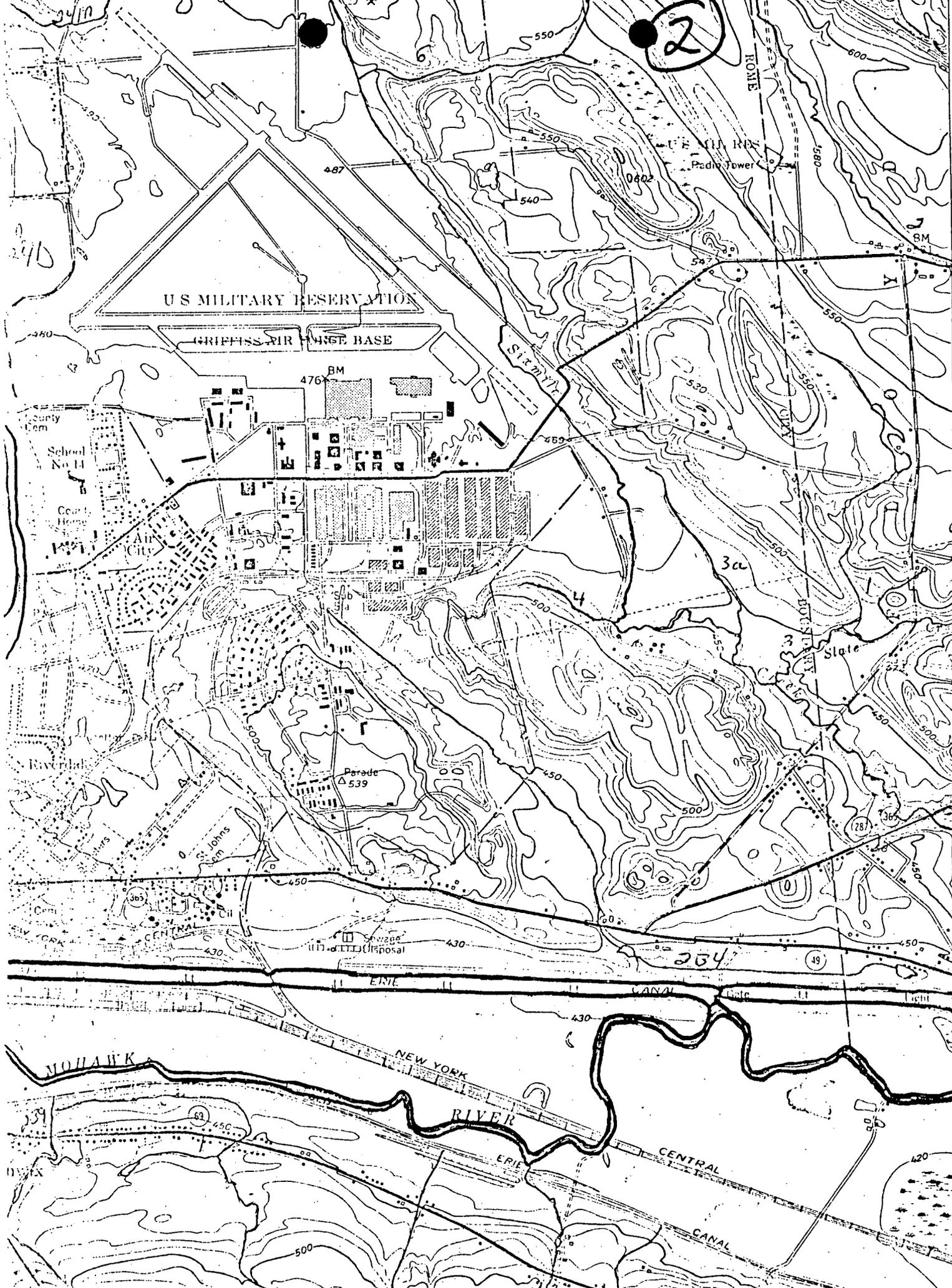
1. Two men for sampling
2. Coring technicians

Lab work by New York State Department of Health or private firms

Cost?

Darrell Sweredoski, Region 6 Headquarters, will direct the sampling program for the Region. Bob Collins, Albany, will coordinate the program for the Main Office.





U S MILITARY RESERVATION

GRIFFINS AIR FORCE BASE

Radio Tower

School No 11

County Dem

City

Riverbank

St. Johns

CENTRAL

MOHAWK

NEW YORK

RIVER

CENTRAL

CANAL

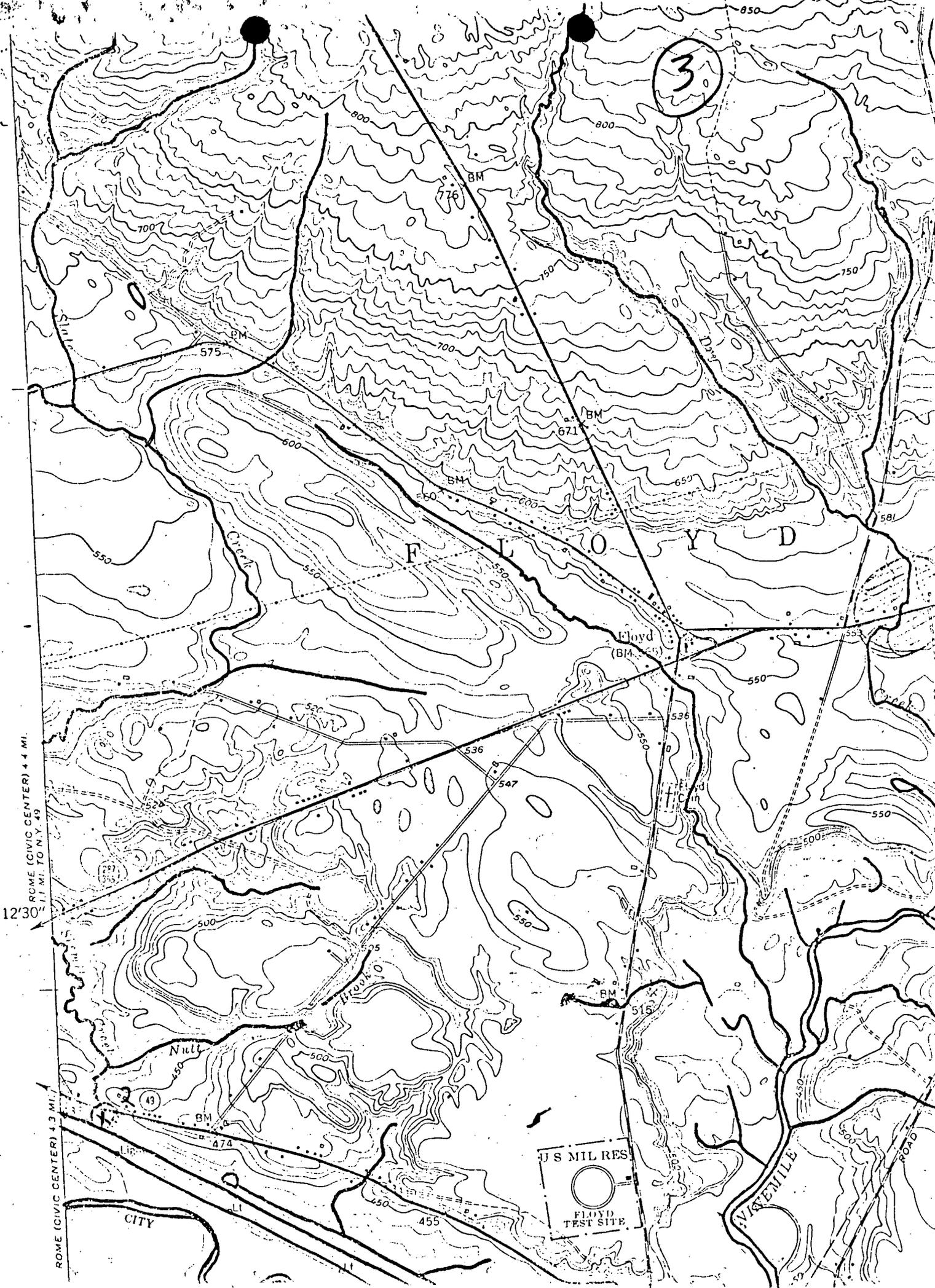
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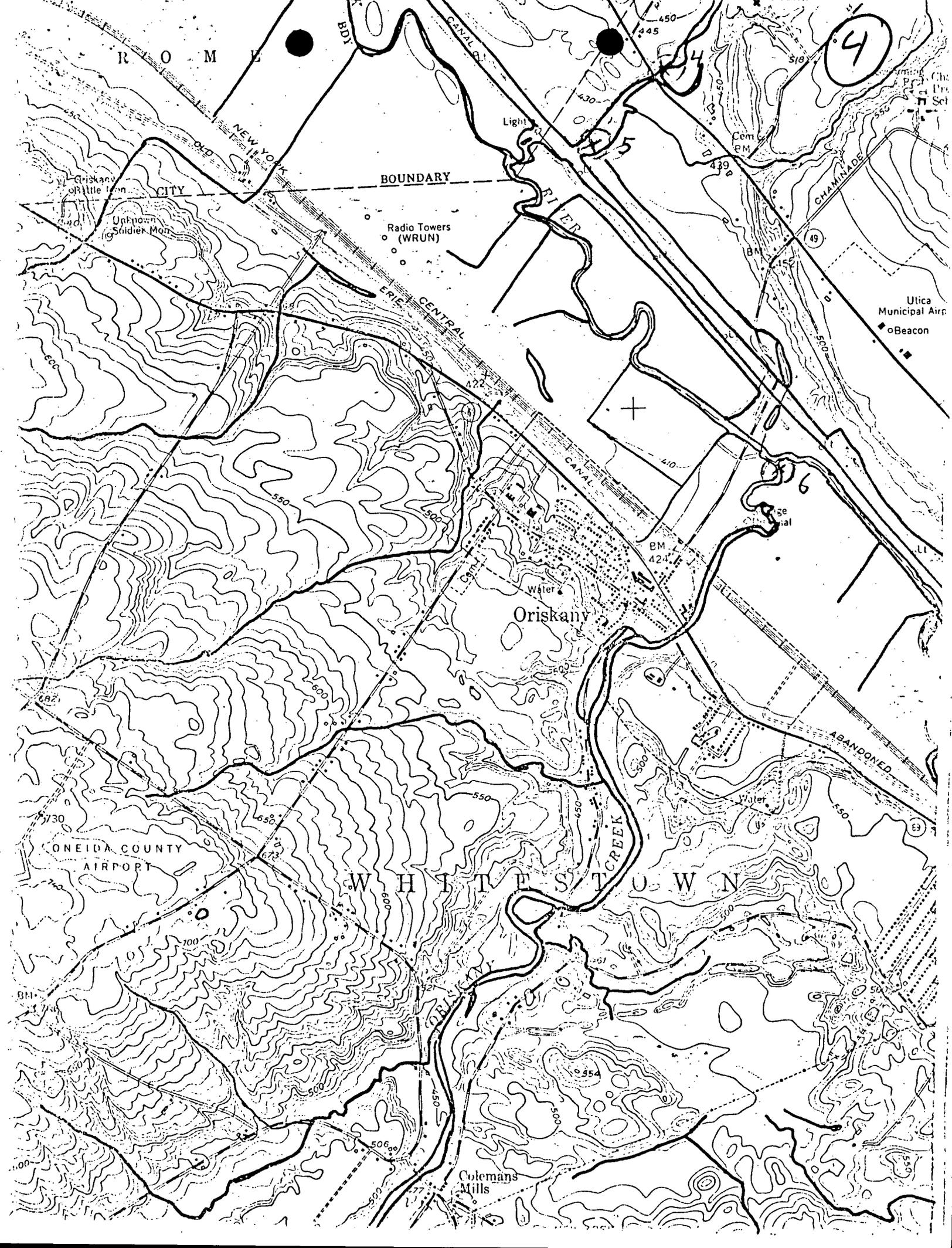
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FEET
FLOYD 2.3 MI.

12'30"
FLOYD 2.3 MI.
TRENTON 11 MI.

CAREYS CORNERS 5.6 MI.
UTICA (CIVIC CENTER) 11 MI.

36





R O M Y

BDI

445

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CITY

BOUNDARY

Light

Cem

CHAMINADE

Oriskany of Little Town
Unknown Soldier Mon

Radio Towers (WRUN)

Ulica Municipal Air
Beacon

ERIE CENTRAL

RIER

410

Oriskany

BM 42

ABANDONED

ONEIDA COUNTY AIRPORT

W H I T E S T O W N

WATER

DELAWARE

Coleman's Mills

BM

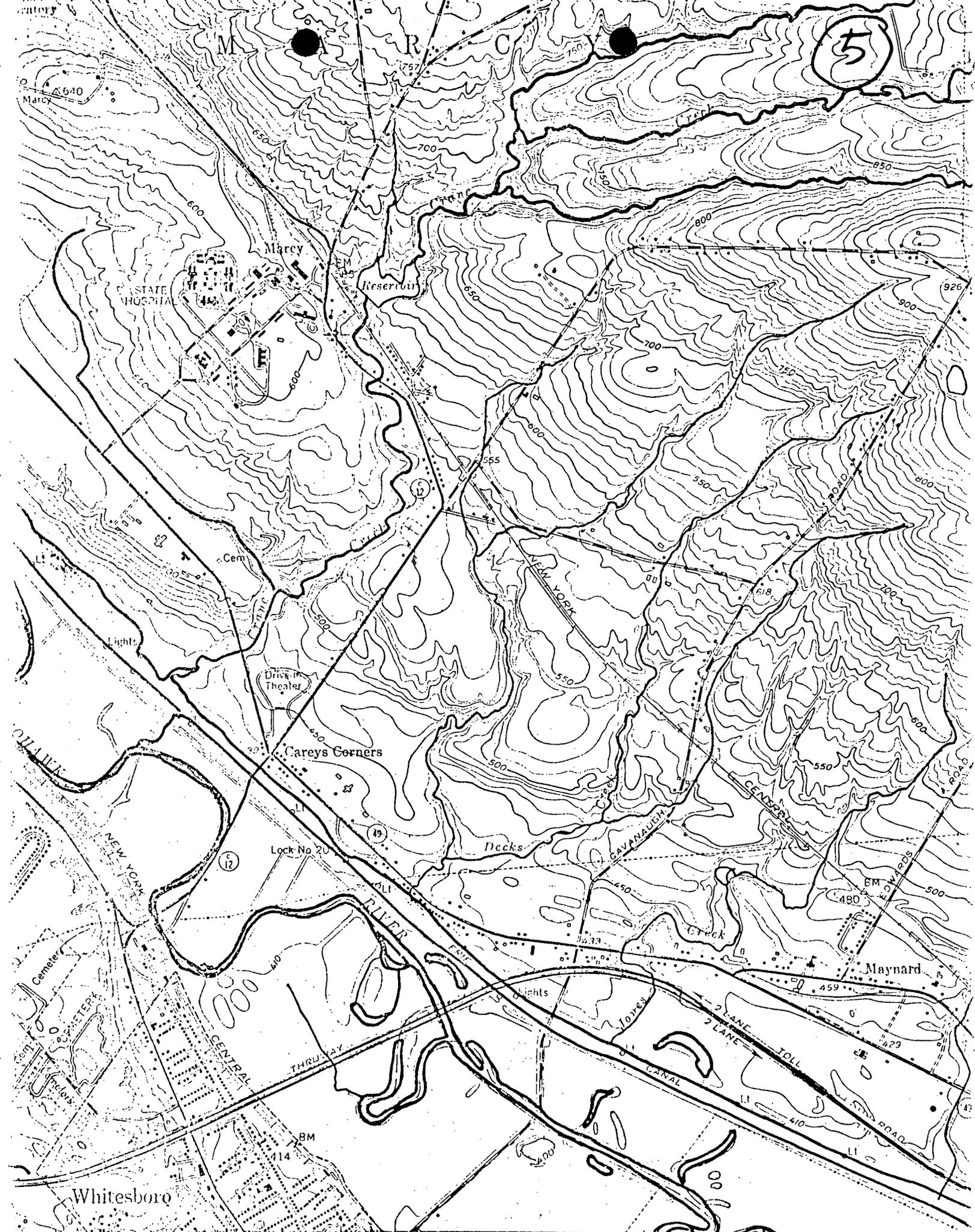
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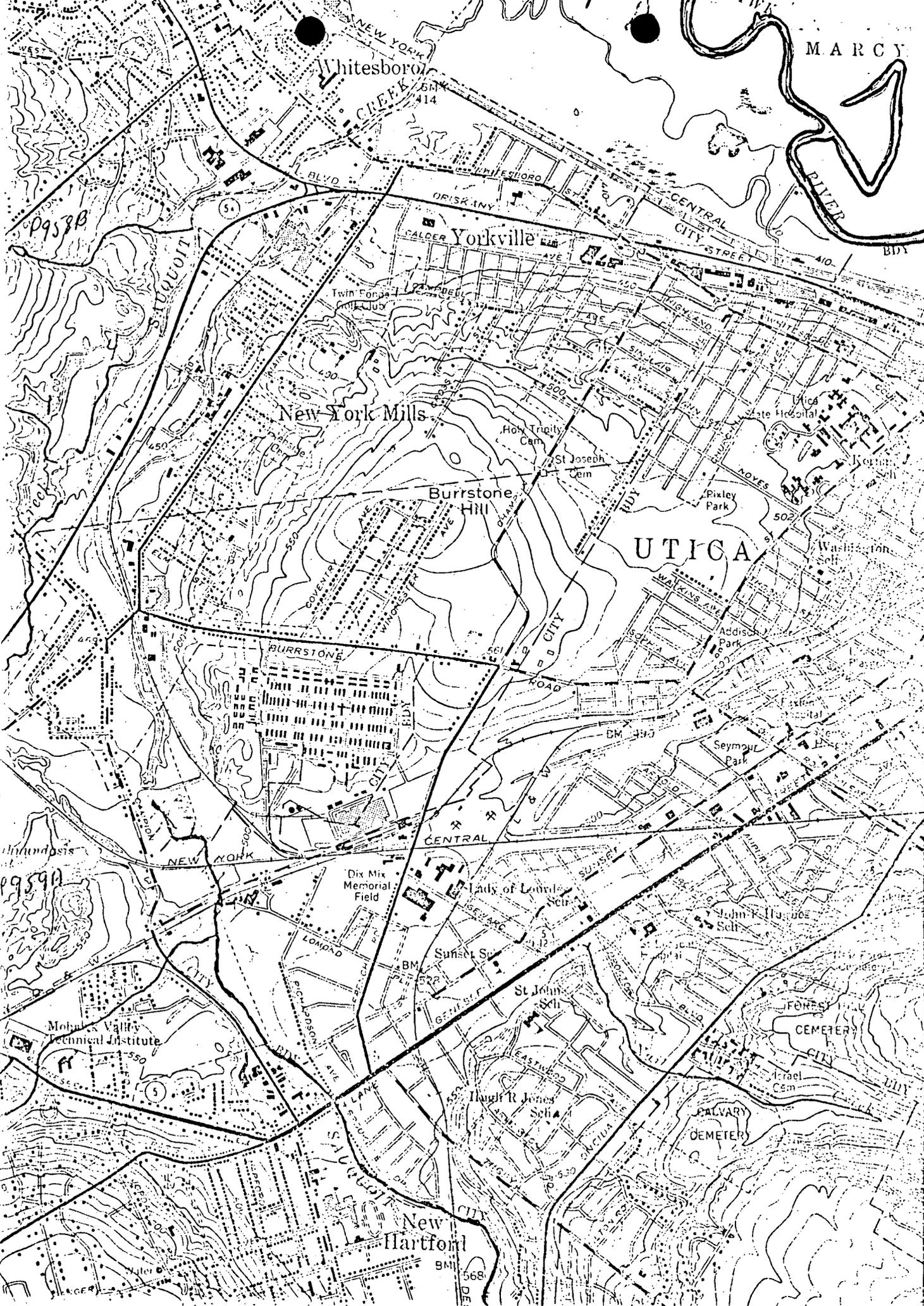
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MR 8368



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5A
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UTICA (P.O.) 1/3 MI.

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17-1-65

P958B

P959A

Mohawk Valley Technical Institute

Water

Whitesboro

Yorkville

New York Mills

Burrstone Hill

UTICA

Dix Mox Memorial Field

Lady of Lourdes Sch.

Sunset Sch.

St. John Sch.

Hugh R. Jones Sch.

New Hartford

FOREST CEMETERY

Israel Cem.

CALVARY CEMETERY

BM 568

NEW YORK

MARCY

Whitesboro

Yorkville

New York Mills

Burrstone Hill

UTICA

Dix Mox Memorial Field

Lady of Lourdes Sch.

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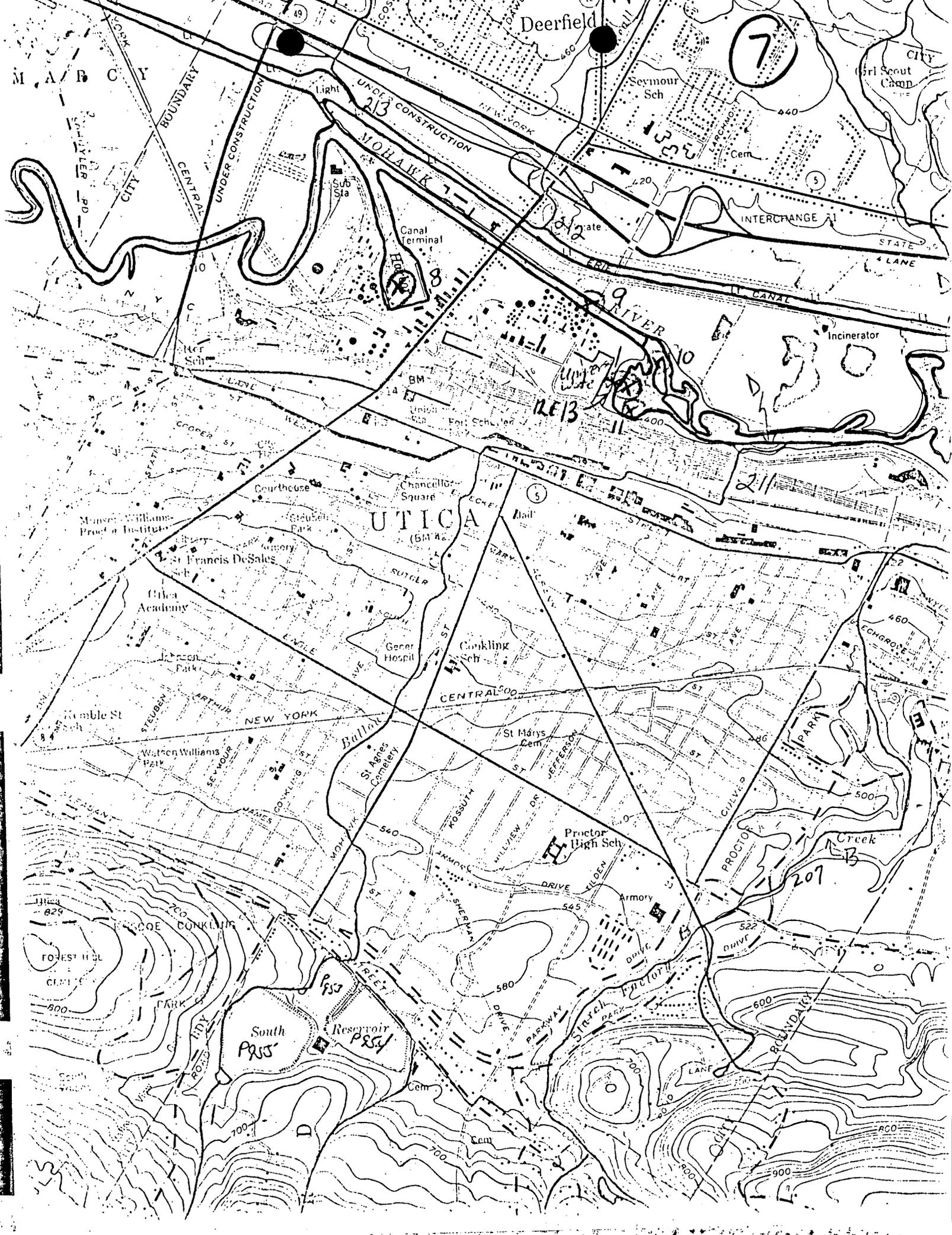
New Hartford

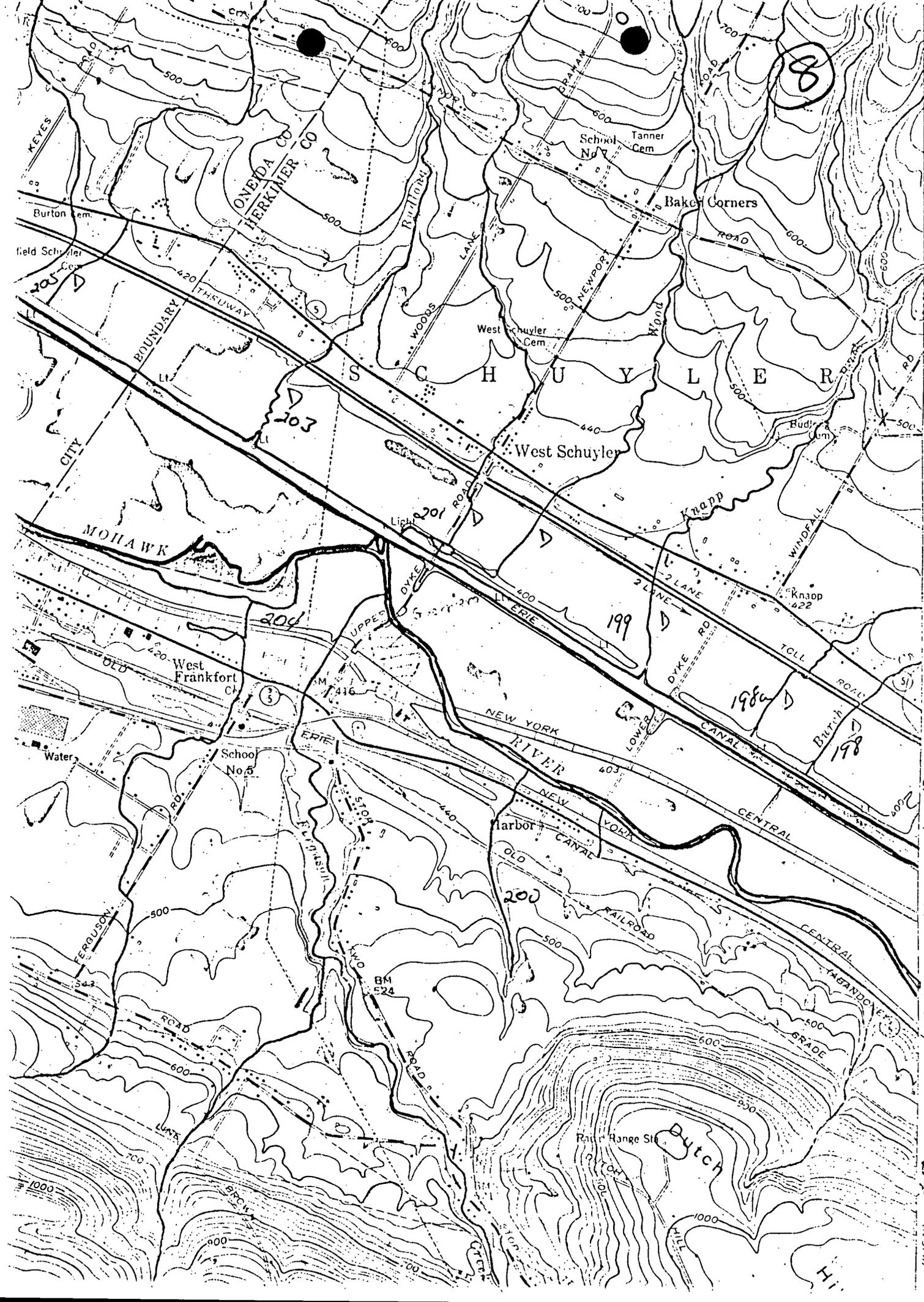
FOREST CEMETERY

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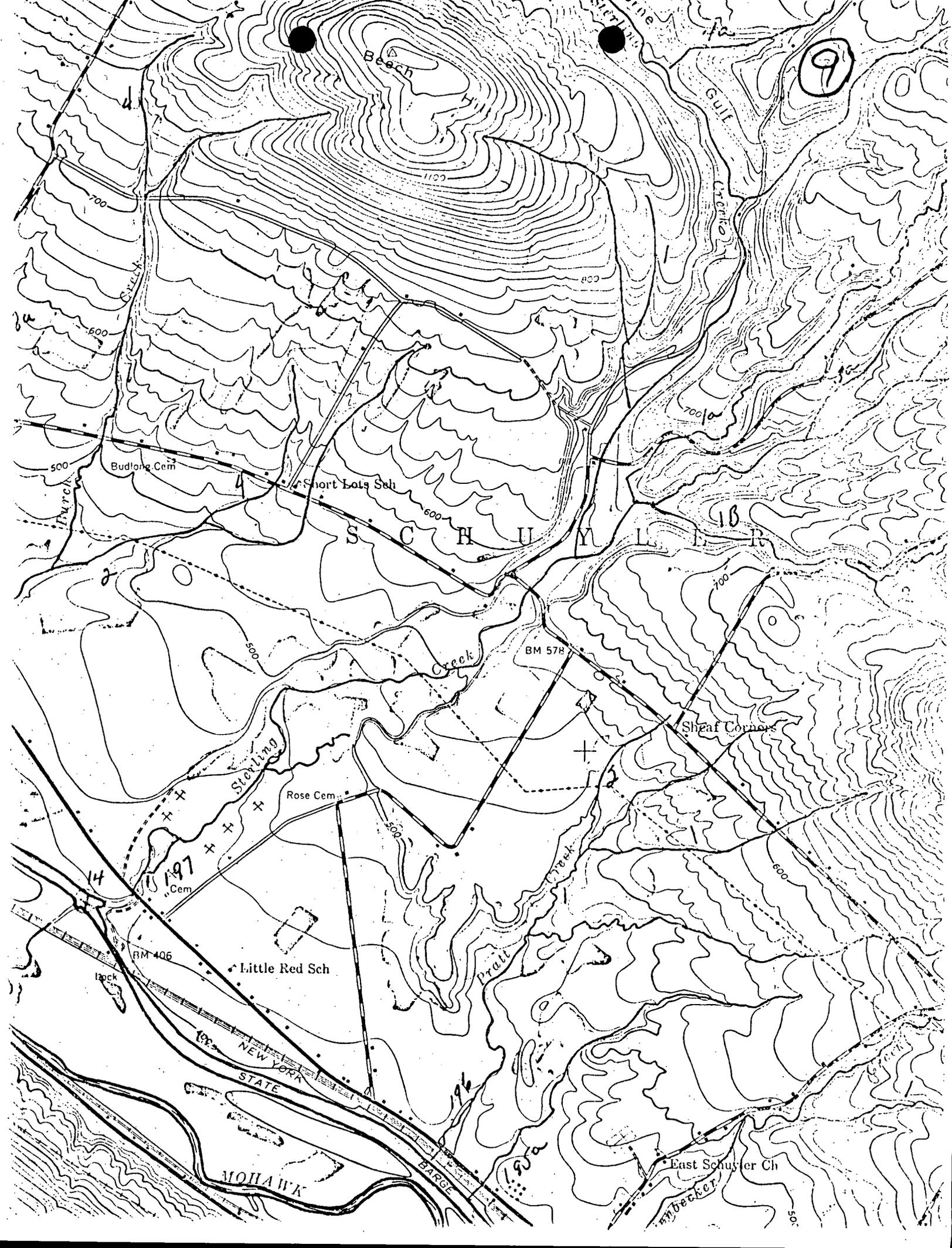
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Beech

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Budlong Cem

Short Lots Sch

SCHUYLL

BM 57B

Sheaf Corners

Rose Cem

1897
Cem

Little Red Sch

BM 406

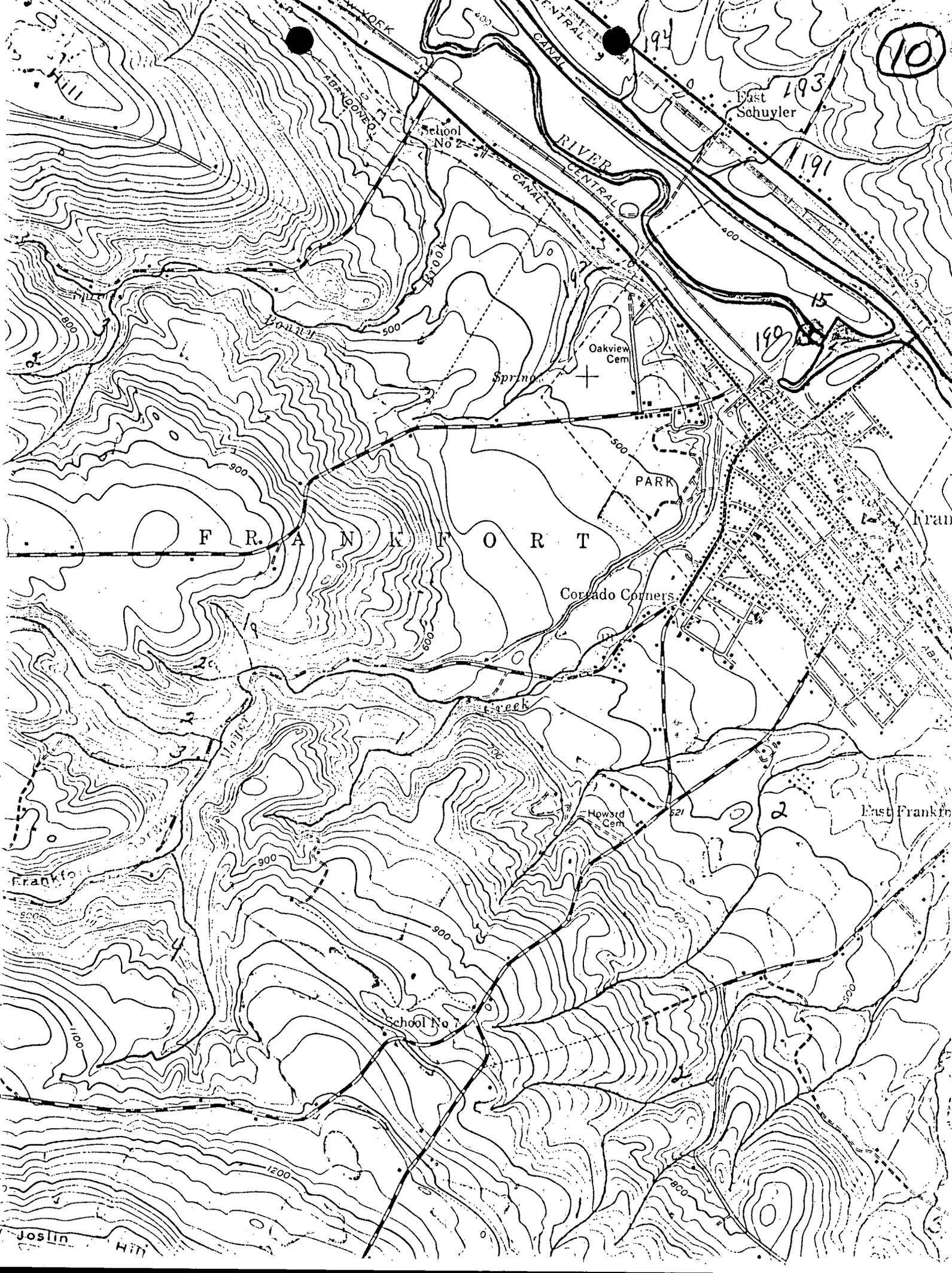
NEW YORK
STATE

MOHAWK

East Schuyler Ch

inbecker

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F R A N K F O R T

East Schuyler

School No. 2

Oakview Cem.

PARK

Corrado Corners

Howard Cem.

School No. 1

Joslin Hill



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION II
26 FEDERAL PLAZA
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10007

*Page 1-36
Blue Book*

*RTD
H.W. List*

NOV 26 1979

Honorable Donald J. Mitchell
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

This is in response to your October 19, 1979 letter to Mr. Charles Warren, Office of Legislation, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), concerning the toxic waste problem at a Utica dump, as mentioned by a constituent, Junko Kato.

The site, Universal Waste, Utica, New York, is now a metal reclamation and salvage operation.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) collected samples and is monitoring the site. The results were widely publicized in local news media. They are aware of the problem. The present owners are working with NYSDEC officials in having the contaminated material removed to a secure location. There does not appear to be a threat to the Mohawk River from this site.

There is no evidence of leaching or any movement of the contaminated soil. The contamination appears to be confined to two relatively small areas in the former city dump.

The dumping of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) containing capacitors and PCB oil was done several years ago, prior to enactment of legislation prohibiting this type of disposal.

A recent investigation by two members of our Toxic & Hazardous Substance group did not indicate any danger. The closest homes are at least one half mile away from the site.

You may assure your constituent that both EPA and NYSDEC are aware of the site and are monitoring it closely.

Your interest in assuring the protection of the environment is appreciated and welcome.

Sincerely,

Richard T. Dewling, Ph.D.
Acting Regional Administrator

cc: Commissioner Robert Flacke
Virginia Williams, Office of Legislation (A-102)

2 WA-HWI:ESCHMALZ:mi:11/13/79

2 WA-HWI 2 DWA 2 WA 2 CIR 2 RA